(*b*) if so, how much;

(*c*) whether any market facilities are provided for the same; and

(*d*) if not, why?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) & (*b*) No separate allotments have been made for grant of rebates on the sales of Pattimark Madras handkerchiefs. Rebates allowed in respect of the other varieties of handloom cloth will also be admissible for Madras Handkerchiefs.

(*c*) & (*d*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 2573 by Sri N. Ramakrishna Ayyar.

* 2573 *Q.*—SRI N. RAMAKRISHNA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of looms that are engaged in the production of handkerchiefs for export to African markets; and

(*b*) what steps the Government have taken or propose to take for clearing the stock of handkerchiefs that is accumulating?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) About 13,335 looms are engaged in the production of Madras Handkerchiefs spread over the Madras City, Chingleput and North Arcot districts.

(*b*) The handkerchiefs are produced mainly for African markets. The Government of India have been requested by this Government to take steps to facilitate the exports of the Madras handkerchiefs and to depute a Special Officer to West Africa and to other suitable foreign centres for studying the market and for opening emporia for sales of the kerchiefs.

* 2574 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the sale of Madras handkerchief;

(*b*) whether any steps have been taken in consultation with the Government of India to open an emporium in South Africa; and

(*c*) whether any other profitable market outside Madras has been selected?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) *to* (*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to starred question No. 2573 by Sri N. Ramakrishna Ayyar.